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4 February 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Conversation with [] relative to Procurement and Handling of Albanian Publications in Rome

The undersigned met with [] on 31 January 1952. Subject of the discussion was the procedure by which Albanian newspapers might be obtained by [] from the American Embassy in Rome. These publications would then be reviewed by [] Albanian staff for Intelligence and for material which could be exploited in the Psychological Warfare program.

Previously, the Embassy had obtained Albanian publications from the Italian Foreign Office. These publications, in separate Department of State and CIA consignments, were shipped without delay by air to State in Washington where the CIA consignment was forwarded to the Foreign Documents Division. In turn, FDD did not have the capability effectively to exploit these publications because of a lack of Albanian linguists - not to mention the fact that information so obtained would have been out of date by the time it was sent back to the field.

Recently, BGFIEND [] have emphasized the necessity of having access to Albanian publications as they provide valuable sources of intelligence and material to be exploited by the PSYCHOLOGICAL Warfare program. [] were unable to secure copies of the publications from sources available to them. When Washington learned that copies were available to the Rome Embassy it sought through intercession of [] to permit temporary retention of the publications in Rome. The Publications Procurement Officer in the Embassy was unwilling to permit this because of the desire of FDD to expedite shipment back to Washington. FDD had not divulged to the undersigned that its source was the Rome Embassy.

In an effort to settle the problem, the undersigned met with [] [] who was in Washington on business. The following procedure has been proposed which, it is hoped, will satisfy the needs and sensibilities of all concerned. It must initially be concurred in by [] Chief of FDD. This should be

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feasible because BGFIEND is FDD's primary customer for Albanian material and needs of the field stations in such circumstances are paramount.

1. Mr. Tilton, of the Department of State, will be advised to instruct the Publications Procurement Officer in Rome that he should turn over all Albanian publications in the "WF" consignment (CIA) to the Chief of the Political Section. At that time the "WF" copies will pass from the PPO's responsibility.

2. Once the publications are received by the political section they will be passed to [] who will in turn pass them to []

3. [] Albanian staff will then quickly scrutinize the material for items which may be of intelligence interest or which may be exploited by the Psychological Warfare Campaign. A given publication should not remain in [] hands for over five days except under unusual circumstances. [] would then pass [] any useful information which he had thus obtained.

4. [] will return the publications to [] who will pouch them by air through CIA channels to Washington, attention []

5. SE/PC will then pass the papers to FDD. Time lost by [] scrutiny will be offset in part by the time saved in keeping the publications in CIA channels. FDD will then, when and if they hire an additional Albanian linguist, translate the publications for study by the Washington BGFIEND staff and for transmittal to the field in the event that the field wishes them to complete its files. []

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